

May 20, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Public invited to meet new Workforce Development director**

The public is invited to meet Mary Ann Rojas, the City of Springfield's new Director of Workforce Development, at a reception, **4:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, 2013** at the Missouri Career Center, 2900 E. Sunshine.

Rojas will be in town to meet with staff members, Workforce Investment Board members and the Council of Local Elected Officials (CLEO). Her official start date is June 24.

Rojas comes to Springfield from Temple Texas, where she most recently worked as a consultant, serving as grant writer and lead project manager on Request for Proposal submissions; of which she has helped to bring in a combined \$26 million dollars for federally-run programs, such as child care and workforce delivery.

She has had a distinguished career in workforce development, business and economic development, system design and strategic planning. In her more than 17 years of experience, Rojas has served as Executive Director of Worksource of the South Plains and Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend in Lubbock and Corpus Christi, Texas, respectively.

Rojas will oversee the Department of Workforce Development, which along with agency partners, provides services to businesses and job seekers through the Missouri Career Center, a full-service, one-stop center serving a seven-county Ozark region. The department employs about 60 people and has an annual budget of around \$4 million.

Rojas has successfully leveraged partnerships and collaborations with industry partners and educational institutions resulting in training programs and initiatives such as the "Get Your Job On" Summer youth program which secured employment for over 500 disadvantaged youth, and the Workforce Development Coalition, which received the Theodore E. Small Partnership Award in 2009.

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